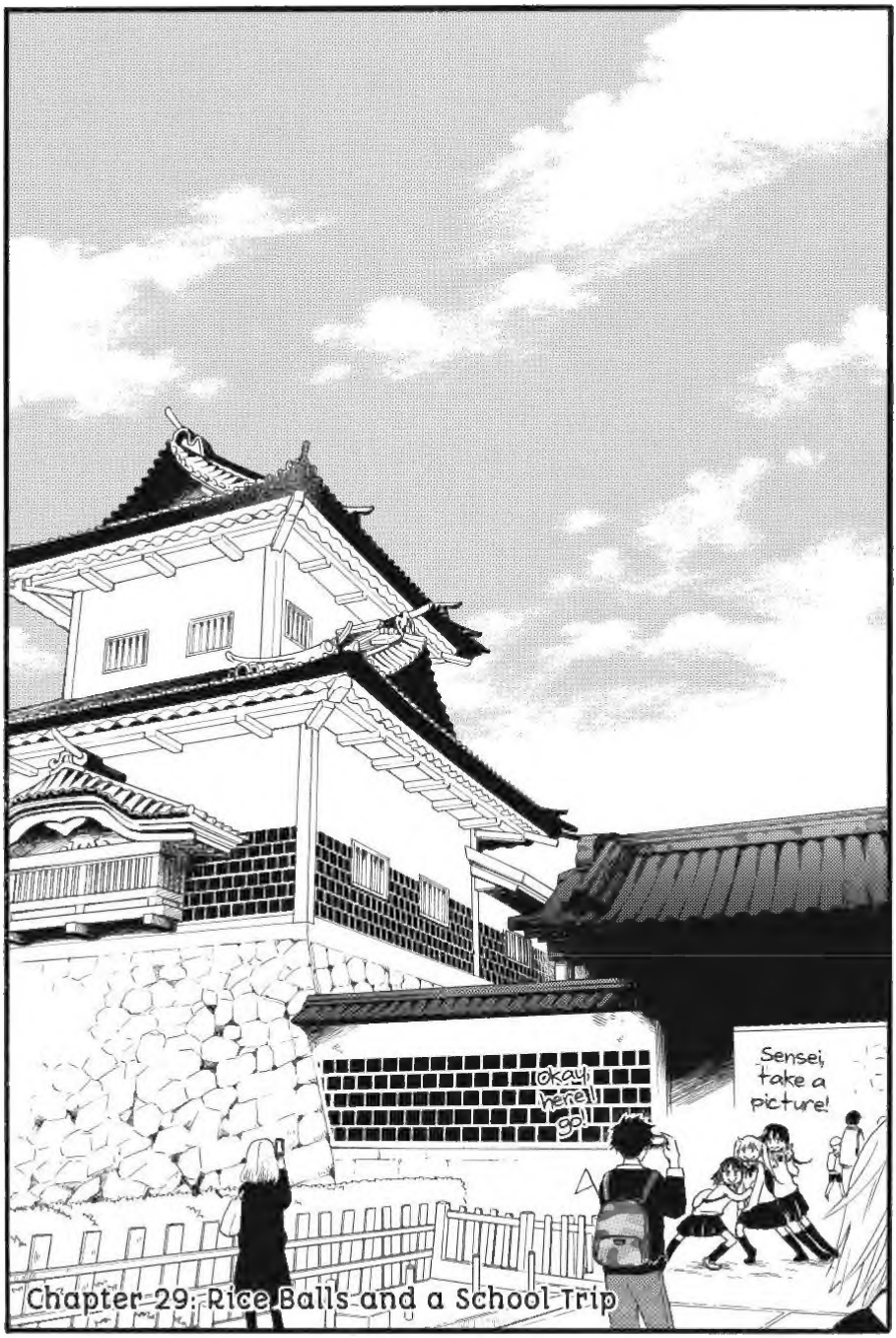


Chapter 29: Rice Balls and a School Trip

You sure you didn't forget anything?

Yeah.
Okay, then go wash your hands thoroughly.
Uh huh.

Watch how Daddy does it, okay?
Okay!

You put the rice in the bowl...
Here's where you decide how much you want!
Hot! Hot!
...then wet your hands and sprinkle them with salt.

FLUFF

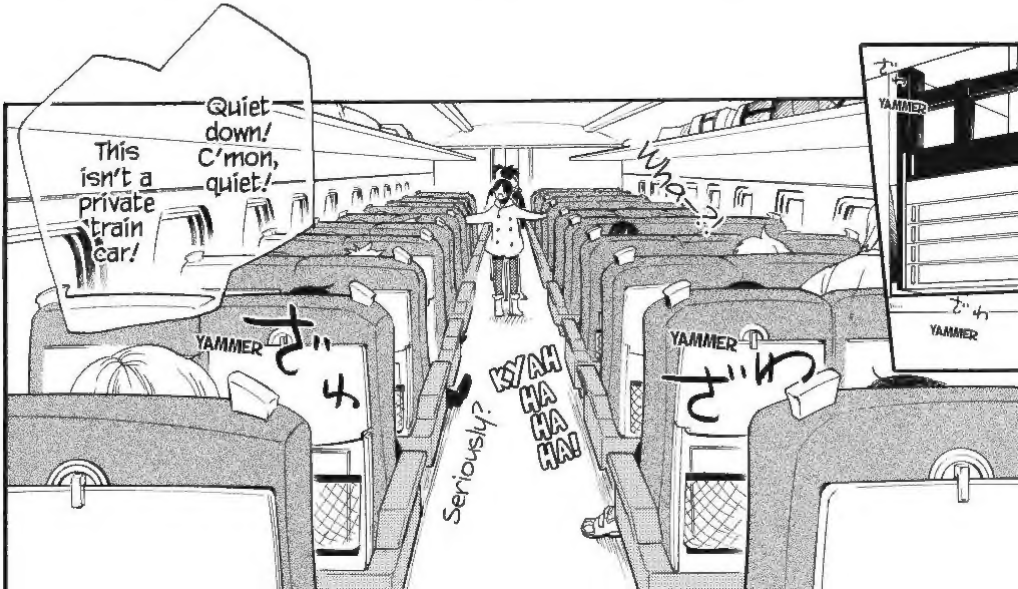
...and lightly shape it into a ball as you squeeze it.
ほっ PAT
ほっ PAT
Place the rice in the palm of your hand...
ふわ
FLUFF
...so don't squeeze too hard.
...and to make sure you don't crush the rice on the inside...
Um...
You want a wall of salt on the outside...
Kotori's Tips
...like you're coating the outside of the rice ball with salt.
Do it gently...
You're supposed to do it when the rice is hot, but for Tsumugi, let's cool it off a bit...
I'll do it!
Can you do that?

What do you think?
Ooh! Looks good!
PAT
PAT
Pickled plum, salmon, and salt rice balls...
...all done!
...
...and you take the ones I made, okay?
I'll take the ones you made...

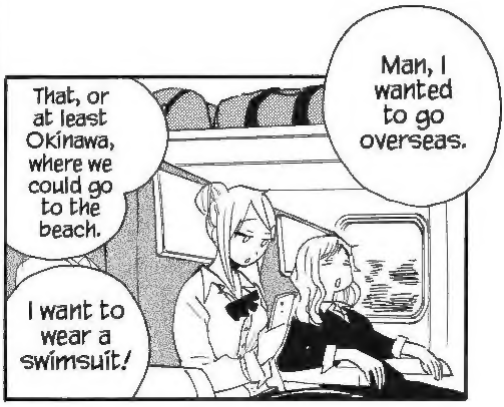
Tsu-mugi...
I...
I wanna go with you...
You ready?
I'm sorry!
D-Daddy!
Yeah, yeah.
I'm sorry, Tsu-mugi!
Awww...
Ha ha ha!
You two...
You're acting like you'll never see him again!
Come on, let's go!

D-Don't say something so sad!
We'll see each other soon!
Fare-well!
Good-bye!

Don't make such a big deal about it. Let's have lots of fun at grandpa's house!
It's four days, three nights.
Yeah.
...on a school trip!
Daddy's just going...


This isn't a private train car!
Quiet down! C'mon, quiet!
YAMMER
さわ
Seriously?
KYAH HA HA HA HA!
YAMMER
さわ
YAMMER
さわ

AAAHN


Man, I wanted to go overseas.
That, or at least Okinawa, where we could go to the beach.
I want to wear a swimsuit!

GLANCE
I'm actually looking forward to Kanazawa.

This is my lunch!
You're really excited.

This is just like a snack...
Oh, no! No!
You're eating already?
That was fast!

Unlike some people...

This is the big event of our second year of high school...
And yet...
ふぅ...
SIGH...
Unlike her.
I don't even have a boy I like!
Not only do I not have a boy-friend...
Hey, quiet back there!
This is no good. Let's take turns eating and walking around.
Kyah! Kyah!
You would all tell me I could go!
You were going to ditch us?
I wanted to ditch the group and go meet up with him!
So good!

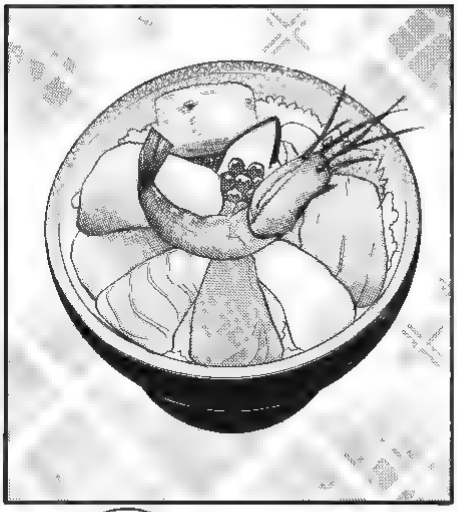
ぱ
POK
か
Okay!
Yours all combined, Daddy!
It's really big!
Yeah, my daughter made it for me this morning!
Wow, that's amazing.
Wow!
That's a big old rice ball!
CHOMP
Yeah...
It's got just the right amount of salt.
Ha ha.
The plum and the salmon got all mixed together.

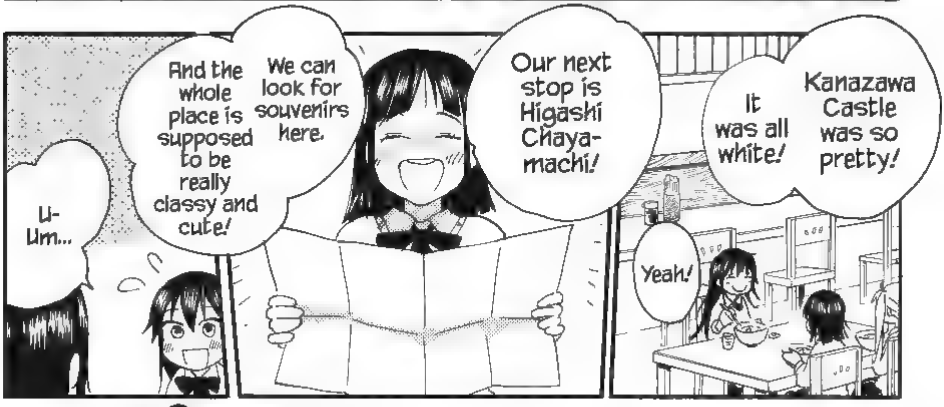
Tsu-mugi...
She's probably really lonely right now.
Just hang on, okay?
ざわ
YAMMER
We're here!
ざわ
YAMMER
Meanwhile...
Want some ice cream too?
Grandpa look, a nice ball!
KYAH! KYAH!
C'mon!
Let's take a picture!
Okay, hold it! Hold it!
We're going to gather up and head to the hotel first.
AWWW!!
We've got time scheduled to do tourist stuff!

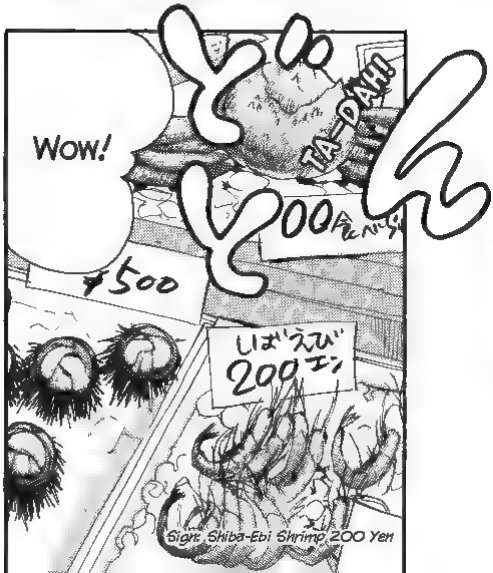
Getting Around Town
HONK HONK
Stay on the sidewalks!
Watch out!
Picking Rooms
Sensei, there's a talisman stuck on the wall in our room!
Why?!
Sensei, Yoshiko's crying!
She forgot her underwear, she says.
Recreation
ざわざわ
YAMMER YAMMER
Be quiet!
Okay, I'm not talking until you get quiet!
No messages or anything
I see...
I've gotta watch these guys closer than I watch Tsumugi.
はぁ SIGH.
They could at least send me something saying she got there.
I mean, Mom and Dad don't really text, but...
Sensei!
Sigh...
No...
If she's having fun, that's all that matters...

You've got us!
I wanted to have one...
A school trip date.
That's really amazing!
Oh, wow...
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
This tree's really cool but it doesn't have any sign or anything!
RING RING
Hello?
Sigh...
Let's be besties!
Heh heh heh...
Daddy!
Tsumu— Hello?
BEAM

Bye!
Grannie, I'm ready!
You okay? You're not lonely?
I'm okay! I ate my rice ball and I ate ice cream!
Yup, yup.
I see ...
I'm glad ...
... she's doing well...
She's so excited to play with her new toy in that bath... it's so cute!
Oh, that was bad timing! She's about to take a bath!
T-Tsumugi?
Sensei, it's time to go patrol.
She really is growing up.
...




Kanazawa Castle was so pretty!
It was all white!
Yeah!
Our next stop is Higashi Chaya-machi!
We can look for souvenirs here.
And the whole place is supposed to be really classy and cute!
U-Um...


Wow!
¥500
ぱーぴー
しばえび
200エン
Sign: Shiba-Ebi Shrimp 200 Yen

Can we go to the market for a bit?

It's okay...
I've taken all my money...
...that I got for New Year's...
Y-You... You're going to eat them?
Aren't they expensive? Is that okay?
And the sea urchin!
Give me the shrimp!
Oo guys don' wan any?
Yeah.
We're full...
This is the most excited I've seen her.
...and saved it for this day!
You guys wanna go on ahead?
Thank you for the food.
You're very welcome!
S-sorry about that.
DAZE

...
What?

...
Fine.

Chiyo-chan!
Wait!
You could've just asked us to wait for a second.
Chiyo really wanted all three of us to go around and do stuff together.
GRAB
Ah!
Huh?
?

Chiyo-chan!
It's just... We're on our school trip!
It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing!
I don't know why you would say something like that.

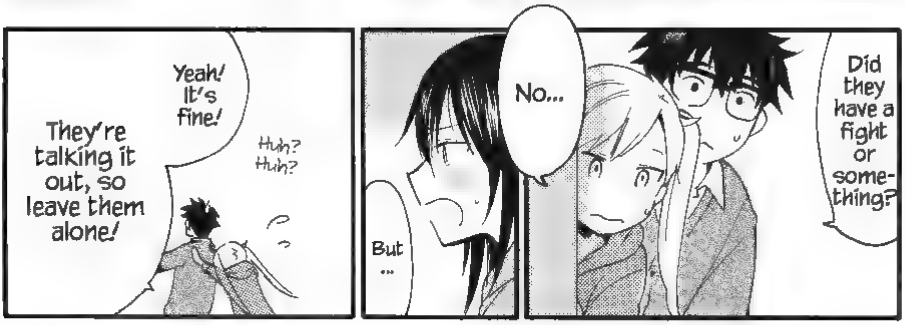
ちよ
SMACK
Chiyo-chan!
DASH
SLIP
You okay?
Oww...
Oww...
Oh!
It really hurts!
!?
Yikes...
Did you sprain it, maybe?
What's going on?
Somebody contact a teacher!

Poor thing.
GLOOM
ズーン・・・
The girls from your room can help you.
It's a light sprain.
You should probably take it easy and not move it today.
...
Yeah.
...Oh.
I'm...
...gonna go use the one in Kumagaya-sensei's room.
...
Chiyo-chan...
Wanna go take a bath?

Huh? Hey!
I'll be right back.
KYA HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA
GLANCE
GLANCE
Jeez...
What am I gonna do with you?!
...

I know I made you mad, but I'm worried...
I mean...
Huh?
Kotori-chan, you really don't like talking about romance, do you?
You always look like you're unhappy.
...
...or maybe go for a walk with a boy.
I wanted to go hang out in another room after my bath...
B-but...
C-Chiyo-chan...
...you're not into talking about food, right?
SNAP!
...

That goes for both of us!
It's our school trip! Why would you say that you want to be alone?!
That makes me really sad!
So I just...
...didn't want to drag you into something where you'd be bored.


Yeah! It's fine!
They're talking it out, so leave them alone!
Huh? Huh?
No...
But...
Did they have a fight or something?

I may not really get it when you talk about food, but I still love that you talk about it!
I...
Sometimes I don't feel like I'm really friends with you at all.

...there's someone— some people I'm interested in...
...is that...
...to talk about love...
...I don't really like to...
T- The... The reason...
...
It's not like that!
I mean I don't really imagine us being in love...
SLIDE
...often...
And it was really just at the start...

I don't want other people telling me that the feelings I have are love...
But now those people...
...are really important to me.
...
I don't really get it, but...
Basically, you like them, right?
Aaargh! I just told you!
It's more compli-cated than that!

Like food, or food, or food!
Just put him on the list of things you like!
What's wrong with that?
I mean, there's nothing wrong...
...with thinking you like someone, right?
You're right.
Yeah...

Um...
You and Shinobu...
...are both on the list next to food, too!
Sorry about this afternoon...
Sure...
Sorry for being a brat.
Ha ha ha!
Really!
I've never been in a fight before.
So it's your first fight!
I wonder if Iida-san and Suzuno-san are okay...
There was so much fuss...
...I didn't get to call Tsumugi...
JUMP!
RING RING RING

Hello?
Kouhei?
Sorry to call you so late...
No, no. It's fine. Did something happen to Tsumugi?
CLATTER
No! She was fine in the daytime...
...but I guess when she got up to go to the bathroom she got lonely...
Okay... can you put her on?
...
...
Daddy.
...Tsumugi...
...
Sniff...

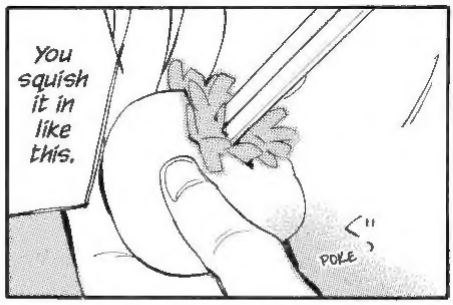
Yeah. Yeah?
What? A bug?
You had all that fun?
Really!
I can't wait to see you too, honey!

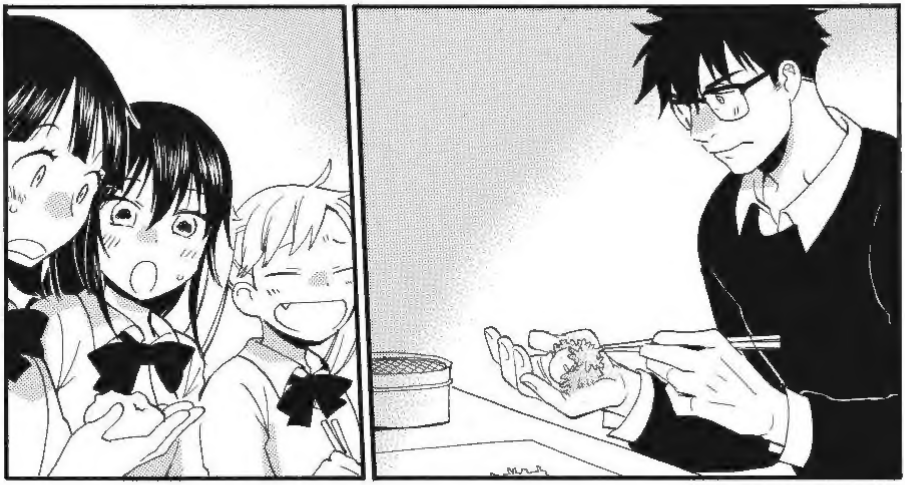
Yeah
That'd be fine.
Sure.
Let's talk until you get sleepy.

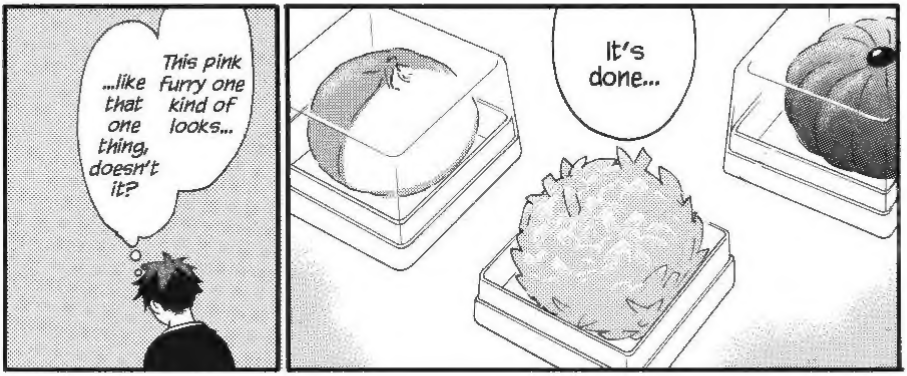
Day 4
We're going to finish off by learning how to make Japanese sweets...
...and taking them home as presents.
IT WENT BY SO FAST!
AWWWW!!
Okay, it went by awfully quickly, but this is our last day.
Day 3 Noto and Stuff
DIGEST

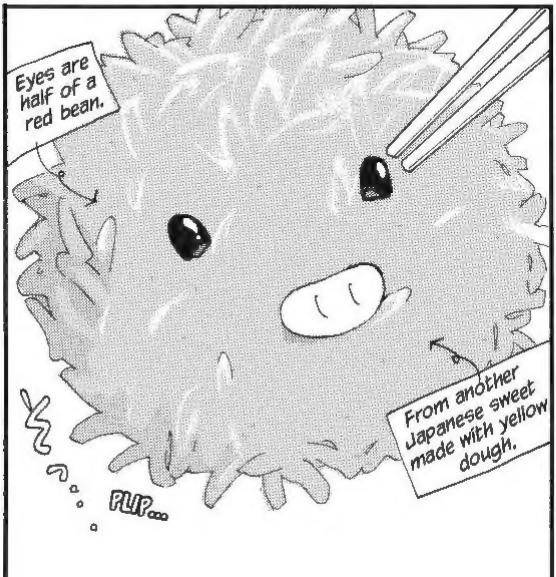
Well, I'd like to have something to take back.
You joining in, sensei?
...and they'll warm up in our hands. So let's make them quick!
We're making Namagashi...
I'm pretty clumsy.
Well, the red bean jam's premade, so it should taste fine, right?

Namagashi: A type of Japanese sweet that's particularly moist, and is typically made fresh.






...like that one thing, doesn't it?
This pink furry one kind of looks...
It's done...


Eyes are half of a red bean.
From another Japanese sweet made with yellow dough.
FLIP...

GLANCE
きょろ
GLANCE
きょろ

HEE!

Make sure to eat it today, okay?

YAMMER
ざわ
YAMMER
ざわ
Line up, line up!
Okay, anybody who's done...
...come get a cold pack.

To be continued...